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BOROUGH OF PENNYN



OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

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BOROUGH OF PENRYN.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Penryn.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions in the Borough of Penryn in 1954.

Though the weather throughout the year was, to say the least, less kind than usual it had little or no adverse effect on the health of the Borough. There was no epidemic of any sort and but for the Infant Mortality Rate which is discussed in the body of my report the Vital Statistics were excellent.

I hope you will read Mr. Blackmore's section of the report very carefully. His comments on refuse disposal deserve particular attention especially as the refuse tip was clearly responsible for the swarms of *Musca domestica* which appeared so often in the houses of the Bissom Estate. Household refuse in the early days of controlled tipping contained much less paper and so required little more than its own weight to pack it to the required density. The high paper content of today's refuse requires mechanical packing if nuisance is to be avoided.

I should like to express here my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued support and consideration, to Mr. Blackmore for his loyal co-operation and to Mr. Campbell and all the Council's staff for their ready helpfulness throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

V.E. WHITMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Except where otherwise stated the figures in brackets throughout the report are the comparable figures for 1953.

Area, acres	721	
Population	4,250	(4,232)
Number of inhabited houses	1,367	(1,340)
Rateable value	£22,220	
Product of penny rate	£86	
Number of houses built or under construction since 1945	294	(263)
Number of families on waiting list for houses	385	(360)

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

Males 48 (41)	Females 41 (31)	Total 89 (72)
Registrar General's "Area Comparability Factor"		0.95 (1.0)
Birth Rate, per 1,000 population, Penryn		19.9 (17.0)
Birth rate, per 1,000 population, England and Wales		15.2 (15.5)

Still Births

Males 1 (0)	Females 0 (1)	Total 1 (1)
Still birth rate, per 1,000 population all births, Penryn		21.2 (14.0)
Still birth rate, per 1,000 population all births, England and Wales		24.0 (22.4)

Deaths

Males 26 (28)	Females 20 (30)	Total 46 (58)
Registrar General's "Area Comparability Factor"		1.05 (0.96)
Death rate, per 1,000 population, Penryn		11.4 (13.2)
Death rate, per 1,000 population, England and Wales		11.3 (11.4)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

Males 5 (1)	Females 0 (1)	Total 5 (2)
Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births, Penryn		56.1 (27.8)
Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births, England and Wales		25.5 (26.8)

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	1	3
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	1	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-
Other infectious and parasitic diseases	-	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	4	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	1	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	5	1	6	4
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	1	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	8	11	4
Coronary disease	4	4	5	3
Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	2	-

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
Other heart disease	9	10	2	6
Other circulatory disease	4	-	3	6
Influenza	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	4	-
Bronchitis	2	1	7	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	2	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	3	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	1	-	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	5	4	6
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1	-
All other accidents	1	-	2	-
Suicide	-	1	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-
	<u>48</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>46</u>

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
0+	5 (1)	- (1)	5 (2)
1 - 4	1 (-)	- (1)	1 (1)
5 - 14	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
15 - 24	1 (1)	1 (-)	2 (1)
25 - 44	- (2)	1 (1)	1 (3)
45 - 64	10 (10)	2 (3)	12 (13)
65 - 74	6 (7)	2 (11)	8 (18)
75+	2 (7)	14 (13)	16 (20)
	<u>26 (28)</u>	<u>20 (30)</u>	<u>46 (58)</u>

The Vital Statistics are good save for the Infant Mortality Rate. All the 5 infants dying before the age of 12 months were males. One suffering from a congenital condition lived only 10 minutes, two others with congenital defects lived 2 hours and 1 day respectively while a fourth was very premature and survived only 2 days. None of these deaths was preventable in the present state of our knowledge. The fifth death, at the age of 3 months, was due to Gastro Enteritis which can be prevented, but a great deal of progress has to be made before this condition ceases to be a cause of death even in the best circumstances.

The male death in the 1- 4 year group was due to Aplastic Anaemia complicated by Acute Appendicitis.

In the 5 - 14 year there was a male death due to tetanus following a grazed knee incurred while playing in the school playground. This sort of accident happens so rarely that the risk is apt to be ignored. A triple antigen is now available which protects infants against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus and it is hoped that this will in due course replace the combined diphtheria whooping cough antigen at present in use.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE

1. Clinics

Infant Welfare Clinic. 51 sessions were held at which there were 953 (1185) attendances. The average was thus about 19 (23) per session.

Dental Clinic

	<u>Expectant & Nursing Mothers</u>	<u>Pre-school Children</u>	<u>School Children</u>
Number inspected	6 (8)	12 (14)	810 (518)
Number requiring treatment	6 (6)	12 (14)	671 (415)
Number treated	6 (6)	12 (14)	187 (246)
Number of attendances	23 (20)	25 (38)	316 (518)
Number made dentally fit	4 (3)	8 (7)	152 (240)

2. Ambulance Service and Hospital Car Service

These services are supplied by Falmouth.

3. Home Help Service

During the year 14 (17) maternity and 66 (106) other cases were given help in their own homes.

The decreased number of cases helped was due to many of the Kerrier and Truro Rural District cases being helped from other centres. This was necessary as, despite the reduction in the number of cases, those that were helped required much more help than previously and the number of hours worked rose steeply. Thanks to the Service many sick and infirm persons, who otherwise would have occupied beds in hospitals or institutions, have been able to remain in their homes among their friends and relatives.

4. After Care

Free extra nourishment was granted to 3 (2) tubercular persons on the recommendation of the Chest Physician.

5. Nursing Midwifery and Health Visiting

	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
General cases	129	124	57
Nursing visits	1,616	1,541	1,001
Midwifery cases	67	57	72
Midwifery visits	1,241	1,710	1,467
Ante natal visits	315	1,551	443
Home visits to children under 5.	2,731	3,440	2,861
Home visits to old persons	293	486	1,015

Miss Margaret Gray, Assistant County Nursing Officer, writes :-

"The birth rate has remained high and the number of ante-natal visits average 6.3 for each mother. This is an attempt to look after the health of the mother and to prevent the lowered vitality which was the consequence of child bearing earlier in the century.

The care of the Aged is now an accepted part of the staff's duty and many more of the Old People are being visited regularly."

PREVALANCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever</u>		<u>Whooping Cough</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
0+	-	-	-	1
1 - 2	-	-	-	-
3 - 4	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	2	-	-	2
10 - 14	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-
25+	-	-	-	-
	2	-	-	3
	2		3	

There was no epidemic disease of any kind during the year.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

During the year 70 (66) children under 5 were immunised against Diphtheria, 96 (107) booster doses were also given.

On the 31st December, the estimated number of children between the ages of 1 year and 5 years in Penryn was 297 (326) of these 206 (215) or 69.4% (65.9%) had been immunised. Although the figure is much better than in recent years there is still no room for complacency.

Vaccination against Smallpox

	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	<u>15+</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number vaccinated	2	9	-	-	11
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	-	4	4

TUBERCULOSIS

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Under 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 44	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 - 64	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	2	1	-	-	2	1	-	-

On the 31st December, there were 39 (40) respiratory and 12 (12) non-respiratory cases on the register.

Rate per 1,000 population, Penryn	12.0 (12.3)
Rate per 1,000 population, Cornwall	7.1 (6.7)

Up to 31st December 95 (55) children 32 (26) of them contacts with cases of tuberculosis, had received B.C.G. vaccination. 63 (29) were dealt with under the scheme for school leavers.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Mass Radiography Unit did not visit Penryn during 1954.

BOROUGH OF HENRYN.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for the year
ending 31st December, 1954.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Water Supply

The Borough is within the Statutory area of supply of the Falmouth Corporation who have provided an adequate supply of wholesome water throughout the year. The water mains have been extended to keep pace with the development on the Saracen Estate and in the Kernick Road area.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

No extension of the sewerage system has been carried out during the year. Work on the preparation of details for the new pumping scheme has continued and arrangements completed for the laying of that part of the outfall sewer which passes under the land to be used for the new County Secondary School at Trescobeas Road where the connection will be made to the Falmouth Sewer.

During the year special attention was given to the cleaning of sewers in West Street, Summercourt and to the length connected with the College River outfall.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The twice weekly collection of refuse in the Borough was carried out for the first three months of the year and since the middle of April a weekly collection for each house has been in operation. As was expected there were some difficulties and disappointments with the new arrangement but with the co-operation of the householders and some slight amendments to the scheme these were soon rectified and the only complaints which have arisen have been from business premises.

As stated in last year's report there still continues the difficulty in providing sufficient soil to properly cover the whole of the refuse. In spite of the regular paper collection for salvage the refuse still contains a high percentage of paper and consequently there is always difficulty in obtaining a tight pack when the refuse has been deposited. This high paper content directly affects the quantity of soil required for covering and the area required for the disposal of the Town's refuse and both of these factors of course have a direct influence on the cost of disposal.

There are two methods of dealing with this situation, firstly to remove all paper from the refuse and this will involve a considerable expenditure in labour or alternatively to provide some mechanical means for consolidating the deposited refuse prior to covering it. Where mechanical means for the deposit of refuse are used a much higher rate of consolidation is produced with the consequent reduction in the quantity of covering material required and a saving in land required for disposal.

I would again call the Council's attention to the problem outlined above and emphasise that mechanised disposal would produce economies.

During the year 704 loads of refuse have been collected which is an average of $13\frac{1}{2}$ loads per week. $40\frac{3}{4}$ tons of paper and $2\frac{1}{2}$ cwt of rags were baled and sold.

Public Conveniences.

No alteration or additions have been made during the year to the four public conveniences.

Slaughterhouses.

There were no slaughterhouses operating in the Borough in the period under review but an application was received to re-open the premises known as Sunny Corner which were in active operation prior to meat rationing.

Meat and Other Foods.

A regular inspection of the premises selling food for human consumption has been maintained during the year and no legal action has been necessary. The traders continue to co-operate with the department by reporting quickly the receipt of any commodity which appears unsound.

The following food stuffs were condemned during the year :-

Carcase Beef	48 lbs
Canned Meat	6 lbs 6 ozs
" Fish	2 lbs 2½ozs
" Vegetables	2 lbs 4 ozs
" Fruit	7 lbs 12ozs

Milk Distribution.

The milk distributed in the town originates in the main from the C.W.S. Creamery, Penryn and the West Cornwall Milk Co, Hayle, although one distributor still deals in raw milk from a local farm. There are six distributors operating in the Borough

Rodent Control.

A systematic inspection of the properties in the Borough has been continued during the year and no major infestation has been noted. The sewers have received the annual test bait. Of the 22 manholes baited, takes were recorded in 4 manholes.

The agricultural premises in the Borough have been inspected and advice given where necessary. Upon reinspection no further action was required.

The refuse disposal site at Bissom and the land held at Falmouth Road have been regularly inspected and treated as required during the year.

The business premises on the water front have been remarkably free from infestation and only four premises required treatment.

A summary of the work carried out is set out below.

Inspection and re-inspection	2893
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Premises Treated.

Dwellings and gardens	133
Refuse Disposal Site	4
Business Premises	4
Corporation Properties	4

Housing.

The improvement of housing conditions within the Borough is governed largely by the number of new houses erected in a particular year. In spite of the fact that some 74 houses have been erected in the past two years we have not yet reached the point where the provision of each new house makes it possible to deal with a defective house by Closing, Demolition or Repair Order. The list of applicants sharing accommodation with other families or living in overcrowded conditions is, however, being slowly reduced. This has allowed more emphasis to be placed upon the applications of persons living in substandard conditions and where it has been possible to rehouse these families during the present year "Time and Place" or Section 9 Notices have been served.

It should be noted that the local labour force available is barely sufficient to provide an average of 30 houses per year and if the recent tendency of local workmen to leave the building industry continues this figure will be further reduced.

During the year 5 "Time and Place" Notices were served and 2 Demolition Orders made.

A summary of details of new houses erected and repairs carried out is set out below.

New Houses erected by the Council	27
New Houses erected by Private Enterprise	4
War Damaged Houses Repaired	-
Other Houses repaired as the result of informal action	2
Other Houses repaired as the result of formal action	1
Number of inspections made regarding the disrepair or defective conditions of houses (excluding Council Houses).	78
Number of inspections, as above, of Council Houses	273
Total number of inhabited houses in the Borough	1,367
Number of Council Houses.	416

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

K.R. BLACKMORE,

Borough Sanitary Inspector.

